

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A switch element for surface mounting onto a printed circuit board, the switch element having a bearer element and a contact element, both the bearer element and the contact element being formed from an electrically conductive material and the contact element being formed from a resilient material.

2. A switch element as in Claim 1 wherein the bearer element and the contact element are of an integral construction.

3. A switch element as in Claim 1 wherein the bearer element and the contact element are separate components assembled together.

4. A switch element as in Claim 1 wherein the contact element is a shallow dome shape.

5. A switch element as in Claim 4 wherein the contact element comprises at least one dimple at or close to the centre of the dome.

6. A switch element as in Claim 1 wherein the bearer element comprises a peripheral retainer for the contact element.

7. A switch element as in Claim 1 wherein the bearer element comprises an inwardly facing C-shaped cross sectional shape to provide a recess to act as a peripheral retainer for the contact element by receiving at least a portion of a rim of the contact element in the C-shaped member recess.

8. A switch element as in Claim 1 wherein the bearer element comprises a substantially planar base to enable it to be affixed to a conductive track on a printed circuit board.

9. A switch element as in Claim 8 wherein the a substantially planar base comprises a solder paste to assist with soldering the switch element to a printed circuit board.

10. A switch element as in Claim 8 wherein the of the planar base comprises an inner periphery with a slight downwards angle to contact a printed circuit board in use and form a barrier against the ingress of soldering fluxes or other residues of a fixing process.

11. A switch element as in Claim 8 wherein the of the planar base comprises an inner periphery with a slight upturned edge.

12. A switch element as in Claim 1 wherein the bearer element comprises at least one bridge around its periphery to enable the bearer element to bridge tracks on the printed circuit board onto which it is mounted in use.

13. A switch element as in Claim 7 wherein the bearer element comprises a shape selected from the group comprising circular, square, rectangular or triangular and the contact element received in the bearer element comprises a corresponding shape either with a continuous periphery or with legs extending into the recess of the bearer element.

14. A switch element for surface mounting onto a printed circuit board, the switch element having a bearer element and a contact element, both the bearer element and the contact element being formed from an electrically conductive material and the contact element being formed from a resilient material, wherein the bearer element comprises an inwardly facing C-shaped cross sectional shape to provide a recess to act as a peripheral retainer for the contact element by receiving at least a portion of a rim of the contact element in the C-shaped member recess.